accommodation units in Rajasthan and Pushkar, Jaipur and Jaisalmer during calendar year 1998 were as follows:—

Number of Visits of Foreign Tourists in			
Rajasthan	Pushkar	Jaipur	Jaisalmer
591369	38150	150971	52299

(c) Development of tourism is an ongoing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. Union Government also provides financial assistance to the State Governments. During the year 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 574.19 lakhs has been prioritised for the development of tourism in Rajasthan.

Development of Heritage Tourism in Punjab

2128. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of heritage Tourism in Punjab; if so, since when the said scheme is in operation;

(b) the facilities being provided by Government of Punjab for converting the mansions, forts and palaces into hotels under the said scheme and the maximum limit of facilities/assistance likely to be provided;

(c) the number of mansions, forts and palaces converted into heritage hotels so far in Punjab; and

(d) the extent of financial assistance provided to the owners of the said hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) to (d) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Union Ministry of Tourism extend financial assistance to the State based on specific proposals received from them seeing financial assistance for Development of Tourism in the State. Subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities.